

AMENDMENTSIN THE CLAIMS:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present application are shown below in clean form whether or not an amendment has been made. Please refer to the attached sheets showing a marked-up version of the amendments to the claims.

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the time taken by the Examiner to carefully review Applicants' present application and for an Examiner's Interview on August 26, 2002. Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed July 18, 2002. Claims 1-25 are pending in this Application. Claims 1-25 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103.

To expedite allowance and further clarify the invention, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 11, 13-14, 16, 19 and 23. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that, as amended, Claims 1, 11, 13-14, 16 and 23 are now fully allowable. Applicants have also added Claims 26-37.

While Applicants are not abandoning the subject matter of Claims 2, 3, 12, 22, 24, and 25, Applicants have withdrawn Claims 2, 3, 12, 22, 24, and 25 from consideration in this application. Applicants submit that all claims pending in this application are fully allowable and respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-3, 11-14 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,418,138, issued to Cerf et al. ("Cerf").

Additionally, Claims 1-3, 11-14, 16-18, 20-22 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,014,569, issued to Bottum ("Bottum"). Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants submit that Claims 1, 11, and 16 as amended, are patentable over Cerf and Bottum.